**Passing the torch**

Newly Ordained Teacher – think about this:

**Faith:** Believe in yourself. Believe in God. Know what you believe and be ready to share it! Our faith is the cornerstone from which we build the City of God and we are the masons. It is an awesome responsibility – but start from where Jesus began and all will fall into place. He was the original “teacher” and we are called to be like him. Look to Scripture to find strength to persevere, comfort to overcome difficulty and hope to continue when it seems that you have nothing left. *Those who with God's help have welcomed Christ's call and freely responded to it are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. CCC Prologue I*

**Love and Justice:** Remember that our sole purpose is to live to bring “Faith to life”….to be the living expression of God’s kindness in our acts and in our words. Catholic teachers are a role model of what it means to live as “Catholic Christians”. Do not take this lightly. Model what the Church asks us to be – what Christ asks us to do – and our students will learn to do the same. *The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life… CCC Article 2: 1717*

**Stewardship for Creation:** The earth and all it’s beauty and magnificence was created for us to use and protect. The earth is bountiful. Teach our children to respect life. All life is worthy of our attention. When we care for the earth and for one another, we are answering God’s call to glorify Him. “Love one another as I have loved you”

**Mystery, Wonder and Awe:** Promote a sense of wonder and awe in the mysteries of life and the world in your classroom. Children already come to us ready to be led to the answers. Lead your students to the truth that God is a mystery – and this IS the answer. Wonder and Awe does not mean fear, but, glory in the magnificence and all powerful nature of a God who forgives all and accepts all. Sometimes there is no tangible reason for something – this just IS. Faith makes us stronger, wiser, more likely to continue working for what we can’t prove – but we know to be the right path. Living in “right relationship with God” means that our choices will be sound and will reflect our Faith.

**Peace:** Find peace in who you are and who your students are when they approach you. Make peace in your classroom a necessity. Promote peace in your staffroom. Encourage peace in your community in a tangible way that your students can see. Pray for peace with your students within their hearts, within the school, throughout your community and as a goal for our world. *“Lord, make me a channel of your peace…”*